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1989/12/18

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 89STATE 400823

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 400823

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: US, CH, PREL,
SUBJECT: SCOWCROFT-EAGLEBURGER MISSION TO CHINA:
BRIEFING HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS AS DESIRED TO BRIEF APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON THE VISIT TO CHINA BY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR SCOWCROFT AND DEPUTY SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER DECEMBER 9-10.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF TALKING POINTS:

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-- WE HAVE TRADITIONALLY BRIEFED CHINA, AMONG OTHERS, ON MEETINGS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND SOVIET LEADERS.

-- AT A TIME OF GREAT CHANGE IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE, IT IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT NOW TO DO SO.

-- BY SENDING GENERAL SCOWCROFT AND DEPUTY SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER, WE WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE CHINESE WITH A HIGHLY AUTHORITATIVE READOUT OF WHAT HAPPENED AT MALTA AND

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HOW IT MIGHT AFFECT THEM.

-- THE MISSION OF GENERAL SCOWCROFT AND DEPUTY SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER ALSO GAVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY TO THE CHINESE LEADERS OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP AND PROSPECTS FOR PUTTING IT ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

-- WE HAVE PROFOUND DISAGREEMENTS WITH THE CHINESE LEADERS OVER HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA AND OVER U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE PRC SINCE THE VIOLENT SUPPRESSION OF PRO-DEMOCRACY DEMONSTRATIONS LAST SPRING. AT THE SAME TIME, IN THE REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ARENAS WE SHARE MANY IMPORTANT INTERESTS.

-- WE HAVE A NUMBER OF SERIOUS URGENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS WITH CHINA IN ADDITION TO HUMAN RIGHTS: CAMBODIA, MISSILE PROLIFERATION, EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AMONG OTHERS.

-- WE NEED TO PRESERVE A HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE TO FACILITATE COOPERATION ON AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND TO RESOLVE OUR DIFFERENCES. WE HAVE CARRIED ON THIS DIALOGUE WITH THE CHINESE FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES, THROUGH CRISES AND LEADERSHIP CHANGES. WE WISH TO AVOID CONTRIBUTING TO
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CHINA'S ISOLATION.

-- THE SCOWCROFT-EAGLEBURGER VISIT WAS AN EFFORT TO STOP THE EROSION OF SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND TO INITIATE A MUTUAL PROCESS OF ACTIONS THAT WOULD ADDRESS CONCERNS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

-- IN 25 HOURS IN BEIJING, SCOWCROFT AND EAGLEBURGER HAD SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH DENG XIAOPING, GENERAL SECRETARY JIANG ZEMIN, PREMIER LI PENG, FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHEN AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS.

-- GENERAL SCOWCROFT ASSURED THE CHINESE THAT THEIR DOMESTIC POLICIES WERE AN INTERNAL AFFAIR, BUT ADVISED THEM THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO RESTORE THE RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS BY THE PRC GOVERNMENT.

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-- SENDING THE MISSION WAS A LIMITED STEP. RELATIONS ARE STILL FAR FROM NORMAL, AND HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES, MILITARY SALES, AND OUR SUPPORT FOR WORLD BANK LENDING ALL REMAIN IN SUSPENSE.

-- EVEN THIS LIMITED STEP ENTAILED SIGNIFICANT RISKS FOR THE PRESIDENT IN THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONTEXT. BUT IF IT INITIATES THE KIND OF PROCESS WE ENVISAGE, THE POTENTIAL GAINS FOR THE PEOPLE OF BOTH COUNTRIES, AND FOR REGIONAL AND GLOBAL STABILITY, ARE MUCH GREATER.

END TALKING POINTS. BAKER

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